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AI UA005/95 INDONESIA Torture fear

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution) AI Index: ASA 21/06/95
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11 January 1995

UA 05/95 Fear of torture/arbitrary detention

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Jose Antonio Belo and 23 others

Twenty-four East Timorese youths have been detained during a pro-democracy demonstration at the University of East Timor in Dili. Two were reportedly badly beaten on arrest, heightening fears that the detainees may be ill-treated or tortured in custody. Amnesty International is also concerned that some of the 24 may have been detained solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs.

On 9 January 1995, about 30 East Timorese youths began a pro-independence demonstration around the university. Details of the demonstration are still unclear, but eyewitnesses reported that a group of about 30 youths held banners and shouted slogans denouncing East Timor's integration into Indonesia. Shortly after the protest began, riot police and plainclothes security forces arrived and arranged for the departure of up to 100 students who were inside the campus at the time of the demonstration.

Eyewitnesses then saw at least two of the demonstrators being forced by plainclothes officers into security forces' vehicles. One of the youths has been identified as Jose Antonio Belo. The witnesses claim that the two were beaten inside the vehicles before being driven away.

After dispersing the demonstration, a regional military spokesman for East Timor acknowledged that 24 East Timorese were being held for questioning while an investigation is conducted into the demonstration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since November 1994, there have been increased, and sometimes violent, demonstrations against Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. The authorities have responded to the demonstrations with arbitrary detention, including detention of peaceful protesters, and beatings and torture. Over 100 East Timorese were arrested following November demonstrations and some 25 to 30 are believed to be still detained and may face trial. Concern for those detained on 9 January is heightened by reports that some of those detained following the November demonstrations were beaten in military detention and several were allegedly subjected to electric shocks. They were also reportedly denied access to lawyers and their families.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Bahasa Indonesia or in your own language:

- expressing concern that 24 East Timorese, arrested during a demonstration at the University of East Timor in Dili on 9 January 1995, appear to have been detained for the peaceful expression of their beliefs;

- expressing concern at the reports of two of those detained being beaten on arrest, and seeking assurances that the 24 are now being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;

- urging the authorities to clarify the identity and whereabouts of the 24 under police detention;

- urging that the authorities allow access for those in detention to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers and their families;

- urging that the authorities immediately and unconditionally release those who are being held for the peaceful expression of their beliefs.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor:
(covers
Timor)

Lt. Col. Sugianto Andreas
[Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel]
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor
Indonesia
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Denpasar,

Military Commander for IX/Udayana:
Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East

Brig. Gen. R. Adang Ruchiatna
[Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General]
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar
Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana,
Bali, Indonesia

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: (In Australia) His Excellency Mr Sabam Siagian, Embassy of Indonesia, 8 Darwin Ave, YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO THE FOLLOWING:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta Indonesia
Faxes: 01062 21 36 0517

Chair of the National Commission on Human Rights:

Ali Said SH
Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia
Jalan Veteran No 11
Jakarta Indonesia
Faxes: (c/o Ministry of Justice) 01062 21 314 1625

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please do not send appeals after 26 February 1995.

If you have any queries about this Urgent Action or about the UA scheme in general, please contact:
Ray Mitchell, Amnesty International British Section, 99 - 119 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RE.
email: rmitchellai@gn.apc.org
(or your Australian Amnesty branches; Perth (09) 381 3200, or Sydney (02) 211 3566, Queensland (07) 875 7440)